

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FBO-02 A-01 SS-15 ABF-01 CIAE-00 INR-07

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FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 610

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AFSP, PFOR, ABLD, NI

SUBJ: FMG REQUISITION OF EMBASSY ANNEX

AF/W FOR AMBASSADOR EASUM

REF : LAGOS 7575

1. SUMMARY: DOVE ADWIN APPROVED DRAFT NOTE ON OKOTIE EBOH RENT ISSUE AUGUST 8, AND WE PLAN SUBMIT IT END NEXT WEEK. COMMISSIONER GARBA IS TO CONVOKE DIPLOMATIC CHIEFS OF MISSION AUGUST 15.

2. CHARGE CAUGHT DEPUTY PERMSEC DOVE EDWIN AT HOME AUGUST 8, SHOWED HIM DRAFT NOTE ON MOVE TO OKOTIE EBOH PROPERTY. DOVE EDWIN SAID HE THOUGHT NOTE WAS FINE BUT WANTED TO MAKE CLEAR THAT HE WAS NOT IN POSITION TO OFFER ACTUAL ASSURANCES ON QUESTION OF OKOTIE EBOH RENT; HIS SUGGESTION THAT WE NOT PRESS THIS POINT FURTHER WAS BASED PURELY ON HIS PERSONAL ASSESSMENT THAT THE QUESTION OF RENT WOULD NOT COME UP AT THE END OF 1976; HE SAID QUESTION AT THAT TIME WILL BE HOW SOON U.S. CHANCERY WILL BE COMPLETED SO OKOTIE EBOH CAN BE VACATED. HE ADDED THAT FMG WOULD NOT FIND IT EASY TO CHARGE USG ENOUGH RENT ON OKOTIE EBOH TO MAKE IT WORTH WHILE.

3. CHARGE ASKED IF IT MIGHT BE HELPFUL FOR HIM TO DISCUSS THE MATTER WITH NEW PERMSEC SANUSI. DOVE EDWIN
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SAID ALTHOUGH SANUSI HAD OFFICIALLY TAKEN OVER AS PERMSEC

AUGUST 7, HE WOULD NOT ACTUALLY BE SITTING AT IYALLA'S DESK UNTIL AUGUST 18; IYALLA WOULD BE THERE ALL THIS COMING WEEK, CLEARING UP ACCUMULATION OF OLD BUSINESS. ANYTHING NEW WOULD GO TO SANUSI. DOVE EDWIN OPINED IT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE TO SEE SANUSI AFTER AUGUST 18. CHARGE ASKED IF MGBOKWERE HAD PASSED ON HIS SPECIFICS ON ANNEX MOVE SCHEDULE (REFTEL). DOVE EDWIN SAID NO, SO CHARGE FILLED HIM IN. DOVE EDWIN SAID HE WOULD BRIEF HIS NEW COMMISSIONER ON THE ANNEX MATTER. HE ADDED THAT HE NEEDED TO TALK WITH THE COMMISSIONER THAT EVENING AND WOULD BE LOOKING FOR HIM, BUT COL. GARBA "IS VERY HARD TO FIND."

4. DOVE EDWIN CONFIRMED THAT COMMISSIONER GARBA WOULD CONVOKE CHIEFS OF MISSION AND SAID IT WOULD BE SET FOR AUGUST 15 TO GIVE TIME FOR NOTIFICATION OF ALL DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS, AS PHONES ARE STILL OUT.

5. COMMENT: WE WILL MAKE SLIGHT MODIFICATIONS IN DIP NOTE ALONG LINES SUGGESTED BY DOVE EDWIN AND PLAN SUBMIT IT NEXT WEEK. AS WE DO NOT REALLY EXPECT IYALLA TO DO ANYTHING ON OUR BEHALF IN CONNECTION WITH OKOTIE EBOH RENT ISSUE, WE ARE INCLINED TO DELIVER THE NOTE AT THE END OF THE WEEK SO IT WILL GO INSTEAD TO SANUSI.

6. DOVE EDWIN'S OBSERVATION THAT THE QUESTION IN DECEMBER 1976 WILL BE HOW SOON U.S. CAN VACATE OKOTIE EBOH UNDERSCORES ONCE AGAIN VITAL IMPORTANCE OF GETTING ON WITH CONSTRUCTION OF NEW CHANCERY AND COMPLETING THE JOB AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.

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